

Journal #4919 from sdc 4.9.21

Noowuh Knowledge Center - educational workshop on reforming Nevada's Mining Tax Laws

Protect Thacker Pass

Pinyon-Juniper Removal Reduces Fire Risk But Could Harm Forest Ecosystems

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Build Back Fossil Free demands President Biden use executive powers to stop the Line 3 and DAPL

Twitter won't let federal archivists host Trump's tweets on Twitter

Court strikes key provision of Indian child welfare law

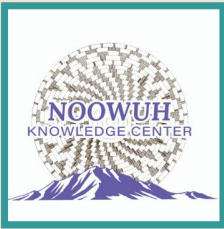


"How is it possible that the most
intellectual creature to ever walk the
planet Earth is destroying its only
home? "

- Jane Goodall -

[Mary Gibson](#)

Noowuh Knowledge Center in collaboration with PLAN is having an educational workshop about reforming Nevada's Mining Tax Laws. Learn about Assembly Joint Resolution 1 (AJR1), Senate Joint Resolution 1 (SJR1), and Assembly Joint Resolution 2 (AJR2). Nevada is the 4th largest gold producer in the world! Are they paying their fair share? How will raising mining taxes affect you? Many of the gold mines are on Newe Sogobia!! If mining taxes increase, will Newe get some of the revenue from tax the increase? Royalties? These are questions to ask on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Please join in on the conversation.

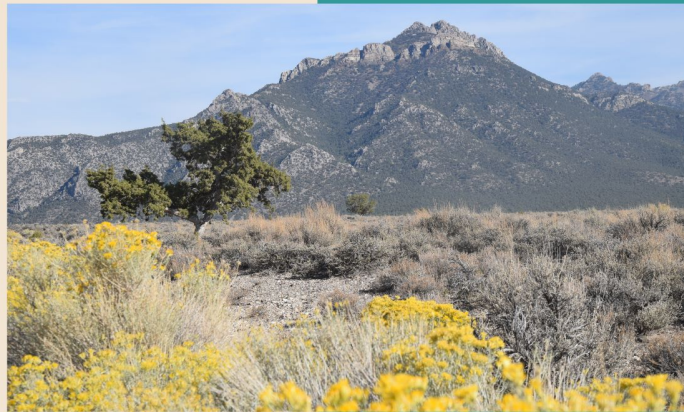


JOIN US

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP AND LISTENING SESSION

RSVP:

bit.ly/NKCevent



**TUESDAY APRIL 13TH
6 PM - 7 PM**

Come learn virtually about the three mining proposals this legislative session, AJR1, SJR1 and AJR2:**

- **How they came to be**
- **What's in them**
- **What isn't**

Following the presentation we will have time for a discussion and listening to folks about what their hopes and fears are.

[Ian Zabarte](#)

Supporting Nevada legislation is sovereign acquiescence away from Traditional Shoshone custom. I do not consent to the inclusion of Shoshone treaty defined land into the boundaries or jurisdiction of Nevada. Nevada defrauds Shoshone Indians and is a coordinate agency responsible for violation of the basic human rights of the Shoshone people.

Protect Thacker Pass

MEDIA RELEASE: Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Cancels Agreement with Lithium Mine, Promising Lawsuit

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Fort McDermitt, Nevada — Opposition to lithium mining is growing in native communities in Nevada. On Monday, March 29th, the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe formally resolved to cancel a Project Engagement Agreement with mining company Lithium Nevada, citing threats to land, water, wildlife, hunting and gathering areas, and sacred sites.

The Tribal Council also agreed to initiate a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management for violations of federal law in permitting the Thacker Pass lithium mine project to proceed.

These moves, from a tribal council which was previously supportive or neutral towards the mine, come after pressure from traditionalists in the Fort McDermitt community. On March 22, these traditionalists brought a petition to the tribal government asking that they “stop all partnerships with any mining company and to file a lawsuit against Lithium Nevada Corp LNC, Lithium America, Jindalee Resources Limited and any other company associated to stop the development of the proposed Lithium Mine at Thacker Pass, Nevada.”

The group cited violations of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and other laws.

Opposition to the Thacker Pass mine has been growing since January 15th, when the Bureau of Land Management approved the federal permit for the project and—on the same day—a protest camp was established on the proposed mine site. Members of the Fort McDermitt tribe have played an important role in resupplying and overseeing the camp, which is located on their traditional lands. Over the past two months, community members, elders, families, and spiritual leaders have spent time at Thacker Pass engaging in ceremony, including a 273-mile prayer walk ending at the site, and visitors have come from many nearby reservations.

The Thacker Pass mine is also broadly opposed by residents of Oroville and King’s River, two nearby unincorporated communities. One rancher has filed a lawsuit, citing impacts to groundwater, streams, and to threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, and a local community group, “Thacker Pass Concerned Citizens,” has formed with the majority of members expressing opposition or serious concerns. A coalition of four environmental groups has also filed a lawsuit against the project, and the group “Protect Thacker Pass” setup the protect camp nearly three months ago.

The lithium industry is booming worldwide as governments shift subsidies towards electric vehicles, which are powered by lithium-ion batteries, and towards wind and solar power which often require battery storage for periods when wind stops and nighttime or clouds block the sun. There are numerous proposed lithium mine projects in Nevada and the United States. The petition filed Monday night also mentions Jindalee Resources, an Australian mining company currently exploring for lithium deposits just north of the Oregon border, near Fort McDermitt. Another proposed lithium mine located at Rhyolite Ridge, further south in Nevada, has attracted major opposition due to an endangered wildflower on the site.

Dispatches from Thacker Pass – The Song of The Meadowlark. By April 6, 2021



Image and story by Max Wilbert

It is dawn at Thacker Pass. The sun rises over the Santa Rosa Mountains, and light spears through the blue-green leaves of the sagebrush that spreads out in all directions.

A herd of mule deer orbits our camp. Each evening, they meander westwards along the south-facing hillside of the Montana Mountains, browsing and grazing on the way to their evening beds. And every morning, they come out of the canyon and make their way back east, to a small canyon where they will wait out the sun.

This morning, the deer are joyful. The younger individuals run back and forth, pronking at top speed. Half the herd—the elders, I assume—graze placidly while the youngsters tear across the hillside, first one direction, then another, spinning and leaping, chasing each other. There is no predator in sight and nothing has spooked them. They are simply happy, enjoying the springtime. They have made it through the hard hungry winter. The grass is green again. The temperatures are comfortable. The sun is shining, they are with their loved ones, and the does are pregnant. Another generation stirs at Thacker Pass.

The meadowlarks are singing. They flit from sagebrush to sagebrush, varying their songs, speaking to each other and to us. Their dawn chorus awakens me every morning. A new day is born. A new spring. New nests to build, and young to raise.

The first time I heard a meadowlark singing, I fell in love. No human voice can match their whistles and warbles, their trills and scales. They are songbirds. Their world revolves around music. Foraging, mating, travel, nest-building, all accompanied by song.

Thacker Pass has its own rhythms. The cycle of morning and night: birdsong and deer moving across hillside. The cycle of weather patterns: sagebrush drinking in ephemeral rain and snow, yellow flowers emerging from soil beneath sheltering stones. The cycle of seasons: the slow grind of winter, the long sigh of spring, the stuffy stillness of summer, the building anticipation of fall. The cycle of deep time; creeks carving their way through stone, plants migrating across land. This is the pulse of life itself.

For thousands of years, people have been part of these rhythms of this place, which is called Peehee-mm-huh, “Rotten Moon,” in the Paiute language. An elder named Eddie Smart who grew up on the Fort McDermitt Reservation tells us stories of the history of Peehee-mm-huh. Of the seasonal rounds. Digging wild onion and wild potato in the spring. Hunting deer in the summer. Gathering firewood and medicine in the fall. And hunkering down in the winter, like everyone else, to wait for the sun to return. Different from other creatures, but not separate. Part of the whole.

I wish I were here to simply enjoy the beauty of this place; to watch the deer at play and the taste of fresh trout seasoned with wild onion. But that’s not why I am here. I am here, camped on this mountainside, as I have been off and on for nearly three months, because this entire place—the pronging deer, the singing meadowlarks, their nests among the sagebrush, the yellow flowers under the boulders, the Paiute medicines, the yellow morning light on fresh spring sage, the green grass of spring emerging from the soil, all of them—are under threat.

A Canadian mining company called Lithium Americas plans to turn this place into a vast open-pit lithium mine and chemical processing facility. Where once was a wild expanse of habit alive with birdsong, they plan to dig a two-square mile pit 400-feet deep into the hillside. Where rabbits run and coyotes howl, they plan to bulldoze and build a sulfuric acid plant. Where now we hear the wind and see the herd of deer, they plan heavy trucks at all hours. What was once wild, destroyed. Explosives. Bulldozers. Poisoned water. Strip mining and infrastructure, new power lines and toxic tailings waste. Razor-wire fences and 24-hour spotlights.

What kind of sick mind can imagine destroying this dance? Not just taking one deer’s life to feed your family, but laying waste to an entire mountainside?

Jack D. Forbes, a Renape-Lenape scholar and native community organizer, says that the mindset behind the industrial destruction that threatens Thacker Pass is not simple greed. He uses the term “wetiko disease” to describe a person who is “mentally ill or insane, the carrier of a terribly contagious psychological disease” based on an endless drive to consume. This mindset is not rare in our culture. Forbes writes that “wetiko behavior and wetiko goals are regarded as the very fabric of European evolution,” and drove European colonization which spread the wetiko mindset worldwide. He contrasts this with “sanity or healthy normality,” which “involves a respect for other forms of life and other individuals.” occurred.

[Try watching this video on www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

I know of no better way to describe what threatens this place, and by extension, our entire world: people driven mad by an ideology of consumption and progress, and an economy and political system that rewards them. Why else would you destroy the planet?

Tears have been coming easily lately. I’ll be walking along, or reading, or having a conversation, and suddenly I’m crying. My heart lurches in my chest. I start to tremble. It’s because of this place. It’s because I am in love with Thacker Pass, with Peehee-mm-huh, with the deer and the antelope and the meadowlarks and the golden eagles and the pair of red-tailed hawks nesting on the cliff behind camp. And I don’t know if I can stop the destruction.

Fighting a project like this is not easy. It's exhausting. I miss my fiancée. I miss my home. I am tired from day after day of organizing, writing, photography, interviews, strategizing, planning. I haven't been clean in a week. But I keep going, because that is what you do when you're in love. You don't abandon your loved ones.

I am asking you to become the person that Thacker Pass needs, the person that the world needs: the warrior-poet, the water protector, the inspiring leader.

There is a hard thing about falling in love. Once it happens, you are accountable to your beloved. You are responsible. Love has a way of helping us to surpass ourselves, to learn and grow and become better people. And so I'm here at Thacker Pass. I need your help. This place needs your help. We can't do this alone. This is an invitation to those of you who are sitting on the sidelines. Come to Thacker Pass. Join us. Be a voice and body and mind standing against the destruction. Not just for a day. Commit to this fight (and the next, and the next).

Stand with me at Thacker Pass, with meadowlark song and the sweet scent of sage in the air, beneath the circling Golden Eagles. Stand up and say: "No. You will not destroy this place."

If you are interested in joining us, [visit our website](#) to learn more about getting involved. And speak out on this issue. We can't save the planet by destroying it. Transitioning away from fossil fuels and fixing humanity's broken relationship with the planet will require a more critical approach.

[Pinyon-Juniper Removal Reduces Fire Risk But Could Harm Forest Ecosystems](#)

Mar 27, 2021 07:00 am

Pinyon-juniper woodlands stretch across much of the high desert in the American West. While quiet on the outside, this forest is at the heart of contentious debate between environmentalists, tribes and the federal government. While these woodlands cover millions of desert acres, they are still among the least studied forest types in North America, according to the National Park Service.

[Click here to read more](#)

[Mississippi Returns Hundreds of Native Americans' Remains to Chickasaw Nation](#) **[Fighting Pipelines to the Last Mile](#)**

Braela Kwan, Grist and InvestigateWest

Kwan writes: "McKenzie and other Indigenous opponents of the Trans Mountain pipeline comprise the vanguard of a network of eco-activists, local governments, economists, and lawyers fighting new pipeline infrastructure under construction in British Columbia."

[READ MORE](#)

http://www.ndnsports.com/lynden-harry-warm-springs-yuchi-contributed-13-points-for-warner-pacific-who-fall-to-eastern-oregon/?fbclid=IwAR0ODzC5i4IcCVQUzBg_RZVz1FRQTG54Yt3AzP4tpJ7RCnrTupLcTb57p9c

commondreams.org

[Haaland Announces New Missing and Murdered Indigenous Unit at Interior](#)

[The department said the new unit will "put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies and throughout Indian country."](#)

All Eyes On Bears Ears



(Larry Hulst via Getty Images)

The [Antiquities Act](#) is the first US national historic preservation policy, designed to provide general protection for any general kind of cultural or natural resource. Signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the Act gives a president the ability to "declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments."

In late 2016, President Obama used his executive authority under the Act to designate [two new National Monuments](#): Bears Ears -- 1.35 million acres in Utah -- and Gold Butte -- 300,000 acres in Nevada. The new desert monuments encompass Native American sites of sacred and archaeological importance, as well as wildlife habitats and hiking and hunting terrain. The designation attempted to protect tens of thousands of cultural artifacts and ancient rock art from commercial and recreational activities, and looting.

Soon after President Trump took office, his interior secretary, Ryan Zinke, proposed cutting the size of four to six national monuments and changing the way another six would be managed. For Bears Ears, Zinke recommended Trump pare back its boundaries and ask Congress to lessen restrictions within it. At the urging of Utah's Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, Zinke also suggested that mining be allowed in Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

In late 2017, Trump [slashed the size](#) of Bears Ears by 85%, and Grand Staircase-Escalante by 50%. It was the largest rollback of federal land protections in the nation's history. The administration continued pushing for fewer restrictions and more development.

Once Trump eliminated protections for those two million acres three years ago, energy companies, tourists, and looters began descending on ground considered sacred by several

Native American tribes. Oil and gas companies obtained drilling leases in Bears Ears in 2018, and by early 2020 the Interior Department had cleared the way for oil, gas, coal, and uranium mining companies to operate in the Grand Staircase-Escalante.

More than 420,000 people are estimated to have explored Bears Ears last year; well over half a million are expected this year. Volunteers have seen visitors leave trash, loot fossils and remnants of Native American settlements, and scribble graffiti over ancient rock art. Car campers and RVs are seen parked on the rims of canyons and driving through areas identified as archaeological sites, alongside roaring motorcycles and ATVs.

Former New Mexico representative Deb Haaland is President Biden's new interior secretary, the first Native American cabinet secretary in US history. [Haaland arrived](#) in Bluff, Utah Wednesday, to spend three days reviewing, meeting with tribal leaders, and hiking in the area. She is expected to recommend restoring Bears Ears boundaries to at least the 1.35 million acres established by Obama. Advocates see Bears Ears as an early opportunity for Biden to prioritize conservation over fossil fuel extraction on public lands, while responding to a particularly important issue for Native Americans. (National Park Service; NYT, \$; WaPo, \$)

[The Navajo Language Goes To Mars: NASA Engineer Explains Historic Collaboration](#)

Mar 31, 2021 05:11 pm

Aaron Yazzie was born on the Navajo Nation and grew up in Holbrook, Arizona, a town that borders the reservation. As a kid, Yazzie said he never thought he would one day work for NASA. “There just weren’t a lot of people that I knew in my community or my family that had gone down a path to get a job like this,” he said. “But I knew I was good at building things and being creative. I think those things pushed me in a path toward engineering.” Now, Yazzie designs mechanical components for space robots, like drill bits for the current Mars rover. He’s also at the center of an unlikely collaboration between NASA and the Navajo Nation government. The space agency is using the Navajo language, or Diné Bizaad, to name features on the surface of Mars, which Yazzie said is meaningful to him and his tribe but also totally coincidental. He said NASA split up the area where the rover could possibly land on Mars into quadrants that are roughly one square mile, then they named them after different

[Click here to read more](#)



red-lipped batfish is a fish found around the Galapagos Islands and off Peru



Native Arts & Cultures Foundation is focused on amplifying the voices of Native artists and culture bearers and investing in the creative efforts of Native communities. The organization is at an exciting moment in its history, poised for growth with its recent ownership of a historic building in Portland, Oregon. This facility will be transformed into the Center for Native Arts and Cultures. The Foundation is completing a capital campaign feasibility study and expects to embark on a comprehensive capital campaign in 2021. The Vice President of Development will have an active role in guiding the campaign and advancing the organization's fundraising efforts towards this exciting growth phase. A detailed position announcement is posted on our website, www.artsconsulting.com/employment.

SoCal 350 Climate Action with Food and Water Watch and Idle No More SoCal are holding a **Build Back Fossil Free COVID-safe action in Los Angeles to demand that President Biden use his executive powers to stop the Line 3 and Dakota Access Pipelines.** We also want to emphasize local and statewide issues like 100% Clean, Renewable Energy for LA, outlawing neighborhood oil and gas drilling and storage locally and statewide, and calling upon the California Coastal Commission to deny crude importation permits to Chevron until they pay their \$9.5 billion debt to Ecuador for dumping and spills committed for decades in the Amazon River Basin

Join us to pay a COVID-safe visit to the Army Corps of Engineers office on Wilshire Boulevard in Downtown Los Angeles. We will also meet virtually on April 9th to take action!

When: Noon, April 9, 2021

Where: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, 915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017

What: Build Back Fossil Free with SoCal 350 Action Fridays

RSVP: [CLICK HERE](#)

Together we can help tell the story of how these fossil fuel fights are all part of the larger picture of organizing against the ongoing extraction and destruction of Indigenous and frontline communities everywhere. That's why we need Biden to use his executive powers to end all of these projects once and for all by stopping all new federal permits for fossil fuel projects.

Register for the Virtual Event.

When: April 9, 2021 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYldu2rrDlrGd1C62sMw6BXdzIRYQ9oPT_B

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Now, we're up against a critical timeline. On April 9, the U.S. District Court of Appeals will decide whether to shut down Dakota Access while the environmental review is underway.

Shutting down the pipeline would provide immediate relief from a potential spill and get us one step closer to shutting it down permanently.

We must amplify the demands of Indigenous youth now and call on Biden to act. Here's how you can help: [JOIN US AT NOON DOWNTOWN ON APRIL 9](#) or [JOIN US AT NOON APRIL 9 ON ACTION FRIDAY ZOOM](#)

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Last week, Indigenous youth leaders from across the country kicked off the Build Back Fossil Free Week of Action with several actions across the nation calling on Biden to shut down the Dakota Access and Line 3 pipelines.

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Biden's campaign message was "Build Back Better." But Biden can't do that unless he Builds Back Fossil Free. BBFF is a campaign to push President Biden to take [a set of 25 executive actions](#) that will:

- Protect and invest in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color and working-class communities that have borne the brunt of fossil fuel pollution and climate disaster.
- Reject new fossil projects, eliminate giveaways to oil, gas, and coal corporations, and end the era of fossil fuel production.
- Launch a national climate mobilization to Build Back Fossil Free, delivering jobs, justice, and opportunity for all.

**[Whether you can join us in Downtown LA or virtually on Zoom, or keep sharing calls to action puts more pressure on President Biden to #BuildBackFossilFree and stop these dirty pipeline projects.](#)**

See you out there! Jack Eidt, SoCal 350 Steering Committee

## [Twitter won't let federal archivists host Trump's tweets on Twitter](#) (ArsTechnica)

### [Court strikes key provision of Indian child welfare law](#) By Joaqlin Estus

Legal experts are deeply concerned about an “incredibly divisive” ruling from a federal appeals court that struck down parts of a law giving Native American families preference in the adoption of Native American children ... continue reading



[Jim Sorensen](#)

I love this photo by Rahul Singh of a sunbird lounging in a ornamental banana flower filled with water on a hot day.

*And here's to your lounging weekend! sdc*